# Press Release

30 December 2024

**Avanti West Coast issues travel reminder ahead of New Year strike action**

- *Avanti West Coast will operate significantly reduced timetables on 31 December and 2 January*
- *Customers are reminded to travel after strike dates or claim a full refund*
- *Less frequent service and shorter hours of operation could result in busy trains*

Avanti West Coast is reminding customers that its services will be significantly disrupted this New Year by RMT strike action.

Customers are strongly advised to travel either side of Tuesday 31 December and Thursday 2 January when members of the RMT union, who work as Train Managers at Avanti West Coast, will walk out.

A significantly reduced timetable will be in place on the two strike days – with fewer services running during limited operating hours. As a result, the trains which will run are expected to be busy.

On Tuesday 31 December, Avanti West Coast will run one train per hour between Euston and each of Birmingham, Manchester, and Preston with a limited services to Glasgow. One train every other hour between Liverpool and Crewe will also run.

On Thursday 2 January, the intercity operator will run one train per hour between Euston and each of Wolverhampton (via Birmingham), Crewe and Manchester. There will also be a limited service between Glasgow and Preston.

These trains will operate during limited hours on both dates – with the first train of the day departing Euston around 8am and the last train of the day from Euston departing before 5pm.

The greatly reduced timetables will mean North Wales, Blackpool and Edinburgh have no Avanti West Coast services on strike days. On 31 December, there will be no Avanti West Coast trains to or from Macclesfield. On 2 January, there will be no Avanti West Coast service to or from Warrington Bank Quay or Wigan North Western.

With fewer services running during shorter hours of operation, trains are expected to be busy, and customers are strongly advised to travel either side of the strike days.

Customers who do travel should plan ahead, expect disruption, and check the details of their last train home.

Customers with existing tickets for 31 December and 2 January can travel any time from Monday 30 December up to and including Saturday 4 January. Alternatively, if customers who booked tickets to travel on either side of the strike days before industrial action was announced (17 December) would rather not travel, they can claim a full, fee-free refund from their point of purchase.

Avanti West Coast is operating a reduced timetable across its routes until Thursday 2 January due to planned engineering work on the West Coast Main Line. Customers are reminded to check before they travel and if making journeys to or from London Euston to do this after 2 January.

Kathryn O'Brien, Executive Director of Customer Experience at Avanti West Coast, said: "We're disappointed by the RMT calling strike action on 31 December and 2 January. Our customers will face significantly disrupted journeys as a result, and I would like to thank them for their patience and understanding.

"On the two strike days we'll have a significantly reduced service, so customers with tickets for 31 December or 2 January are strongly advised to travel on alternative dates or claim a full fee-free refund. We remain open to working with the RMT to resolve the dispute."

RMT members, who work as Train Managers at Avanti West Coast will also be striking every Sunday from 12 January until 25 May 2025.

ENDS

Avanti West Coast's revised timetables for Tuesday 31 December and Thursday 2 January can be found here along with travel advice: Strike action | Travel Information | Avanti West Coast

**First trains and last trains to and from London Euston on Tuesday 31 December:**

| Direction | From | To | First Train | Last Train |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Northbound** | London Euston | Birmingham New Street | 08:16 | 16:14 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Glasgow Central | 08:30 | 13:29 |
| | | Manchester Piccadilly | 07:43 | 14:43 |
| | | Preston | 07:19 | 14:29 |
| **Southbound** | Birmingham New Street* | London Euston | 08:21 | 16:21 |
| | Glasgow Central | | 07:36 | 13:35 |
| | Manchester Piccadilly | | 07:55 | 14:55 |
| | Preston | | 07:16 | 15:16 |

*The first train from Birmingham New Street to Euston (08:21) starts at Wolverhampton where it is scheduled to depart at 07:41.

First and last trains to and from London Euston on Thursday 2 January:

| Direction | From | To | First Train | Last Train |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Northbound** | London Euston | Crewe | 09:03 | 16:55 |
| | | Manchester Piccadilly | 08:47 | 15:50 |
| | | Wolverhampton (via Birmingham) | 08:15 | 16:10 |
| **Southbound** | Crewe | London Euston | 07:55 | 16:55 |
| | Manchester Piccadilly | | 08:15 | 15:15 |
| | Wolverhampton (via Birmingham) | | 08:45 | 16:45 |

For more information about Avanti West Coast services over Christmas, visit: [Christmas Travel Information | Avanti West Coast]

### About Avanti West Coast

Avanti West Coast, operator of intercity rail services on the West Coast Main Line, is a joint venture between FirstGroup and Trenitalia, delivering a cleaner, greener railway that drives the West Coast forward.

We're on a mission to revolutionise train travel. Our refurbed Pendolinos returned to the rails in June 2024 following a £117m investment programme that's delivered the best in class comfort. Known as the UK's hardest working fleet, all 56 of these iconic trains have been transformed and now boast better seats, improved lighting, new interior carpets, customer-friendly passenger information screens, additional luggage space, power points at every seat and refurbished toilets.

Our new Evero fleet was introduced in June 2024 and will replace our Voyagers. Built by Hitachi, the 23-strong fleet, consisting of 10 seven-carriage electric trains and 13 five-carriage bi-modes, will serve routes from London to the Midlands, Chester, North Wales and the North West, leading to a substantial cut in carbon emissions with an increase in seats, and offering improved comfort. Quieter and roomier, with more reliable Wi-Fi, wireless charging for electrical devices and a real-time customer information system, these new trains are the result of a £350m investment in sustainable travel.

We're tackling climate change wherever we can, from reducing energy and water use to training drivers in eco-driving techniques and sourcing food and drink from local suppliers. Our goal is to be net zero carbon by 2031. We're on track.

For the latest news, visit the Avanti West Coast Media Centre: https://newsdesk.avantiwestcoast.co.uk/

Press Office: 0845 000 3333